



## Useful Web Links



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[BC Government Caucus](#)

[Ministry of Education](#)

[City of Prince George](#)

[Regional District of Fraser Fort George](#)

[Prince George Public Library](#)

[Two Rivers Gallery](#)

[Act Now! BC](#)

[2010 Commerce Centre](#)

[Spirit of 2010](#)

[Prince George Community Foundation](#)

[Northern Development Initiative Trust](#)

[The Exploration Place](#)

[Railway and Forestry Museum](#)

## March 5, 2010

Hello everyone,

The legislature is back in session this week following a break for the Olympics. MLA's were in Victoria hard at work, meeting with stakeholders and speaking in the house. The provincial budget was introduced on Tuesday as well. There are several highlights in this year's budget for Northern BC. Northern BC is well positioned to take advantage of the expected economic upturn. Budget 2010 builds on previous investments in health care, education, infrastructure and a host of other areas.

Health care is an area our government has consistently prioritized – in Northern BC and around the province we just have to look at the Northern Cancer Centre and the Northern Medical Program to see two examples of significant health investments by our government. By 2012-13, the Ministry of Health Services' budget will increase by over \$2 billion from the 2009-10 level. This represents the largest share of government funding increases during the fiscal period. Government is committed to allocating to health spending all revenue received from five key revenue sources – harmonized sales tax, medical services plan premiums, tobacco taxes, lottery revenues dedicated to the Health Special Account and health transfer payments from the federal government. As our population ages the need to invest in our health services takes on even greater importance.

Another program area where I have a keen interest as a former minister is education. Budget 2010 reaffirms

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### **Useful Phone numbers**

**BC Nurse line:** 24 hour,  
Toll free 1-866-215-4700

**Pharma Net Hotline:**  
Mon-Fri (8:30-4:30pm)  
1-800-387-4700

**Health Info Line:** Mon-Fri  
(8:30-4:30pm)  
1-800-465-4911

**Victim Link:** 7 days a  
week,  
24 hours, 1-800-563-0808

government's commitment to introduce voluntary full-day kindergarten for five-year-olds beginning September 2010. Full-day kindergarten programs will help ensure that every child in B.C. has the best possible start in school and in life. Funding has been set at \$44 million in 2010-11, \$107 million in 2011-12, and \$129 million in 2012-13, of which \$22 million in 2012-13 is new funding. Full-day kindergarten will be available for more than half B.C.'s eligible students this September. By September 2011, full-day kindergarten will be available for every five-year-old in the province. Per-pupil funding for students in the K-12 levels will increase from \$8,200 in 2009-10 to an estimated \$8,301 for 2010-11, the highest ever. Many constituents have expressed their desire to see a strong education system in BC in the years ahead. Just like in health care, our investments in education are a priority as we invest in future generations of this province. Lastly, there is a focus on families in this budget. Budget 2010 provides an additional \$26 million in funding over three years to support child-care programs that assist low- and moderate-income families with the cost of child care. This includes direct assistance to families for child care. There is a provision for a new property tax deferral program for families with children under 18 for the 2010 tax year. Beginning July 1, 2010, homeowners who are financially responsible for a child under the age of 18 and have at least 15 per cent equity in their homes will be able to defer property taxes on their principal residence. There is also a new Northern and Rural Home Owner Benefit for British Columbians. Beginning in 2011, Northern and rural residents may receive a benefit of up to \$200 – over and above the Home Owner Grant.

I will spend much of the weekend working on constituency files and attending community events. When the legislature is in session I still travel home every weekend to keep up with my MLA responsibilities. While the time at home can be very short it is important to stay connected and focus on the most important part of our jobs. I would also like to mention that this month is National Kidney Health Month in Canada and a perfect opportunity for British Columbians to learn more about the risks of kidney disease and the benefits of early diagnosis. Please visit [www.bcrenalagency.ca](http://www.bcrenalagency.ca) or [www.kidney.bc.ca](http://www.kidney.bc.ca) for more details.

It is Spring Break next week and I know many of you are travelling. Drive safely and don't forget to check our ministry site, [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca), for the latest road conditions. Have a

great week and I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Until next week,  
Shirley

**This week's bouquet of recognition  
goes to....**

*The Winter Olympic Volunteers that did BC  
so proud at the games!  
Thanks for the great job you did.*

**Community Announcement**

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***CNE Hosting Job Fair  
March 9, 2010 10am – 3pm  
Northworks Job fair  
is an excellent opportunity  
to meet potential employers***

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***Information Seminar: The Proposed Transition to  
Harmonized Sales Tax - Information for Businesses***

(offered in English only)

Location 1:

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Prince George Civic Centre  
Room 207  
808 Civic Plaza  
Prince George, BC

Location is wheelchair accessible.

Dates and times

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Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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### Location 2:

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Prince George Civic Centre  
Room 201-2  
808 Civic Plaza  
Prince George, BC

Location is wheelchair accessible.

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### Dates and times

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Monday, March 15, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Monday, March 15, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 15, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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### Location 3:

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Prince George Civic Centre  
Room 204-5  
808 Civic Plaza  
Prince George, BC

Location is wheelchair accessible.

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### Dates and times

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Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 22, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Monday, March 22, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 22, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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### Registration

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Registration is required as seating is limited.

Tell us which session you want to attend and the number of participants, and provide your

name and phone number.

Email: [BCHSTOutreach@cra-arc.gc.ca](mailto:BCHSTOutreach@cra-arc.gc.ca)

Phone: 1-888-691-4501 (toll-free)

Please note that all registrations are considered confirmed at the time they are made. We will only contact you in the case of a change or a cancellation.

If you register and then find that you cannot attend, please call us at 1-888-691-4501.



## Mark your calendar...

- ❖ March 6-Fundraising Dinner for Leora Wildi at Treasure Cove Casino – Dinner and Dance, \$40/per person – Tickets available at Koops on Nicholson Street.
- ❖ March 6-7- Top Dog Agility trials held at the PG Agriplex. Top calibre dogs from all over Northern BC. \*am to 5pm both days. Admission is by donation to the SPCA. For more info call 250-563-0905
- ❖ March 7 – PGSO **Sunday Serenade** at 3pm at the Prince George Playhouse, featuring Mozart’s “The Hunt and Schubert’s Octet in F-Major” Tickets available at Studio 2880
- ❖ March 8 –12 Blast to the Past, Camp hours 8am-5:30 pm, let your child’s imagination take a journey into the past. Register on line at [www.theexplorationplace.com](http://www.theexplorationplace.com)
- ❖ March 13- Fundraising event for PGSO – **Black tie Blackjack and the World Uncorked...**in showroom at Wood Wheaton, Tickets are \$68.25 and available at PGSO office and Books & Co.
- ❖ March 20-Pancake Breakfast at ECRA- 1692 – 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, \$6/per person, 8am-11am
- ❖ March 20 – Bel Canto Choirs presents “Vintage” at the Prince George Playhouse. Show times 2:30pm and 7:30pm. Tickets available at Studio 2880. For more info [www.belcantochoirs.ca](http://www.belcantochoirs.ca)
- ❖ March 26 – 28 – the Rainbow Singers present “**Gold Rush Review**” at the ECRA Saloon, Admission is \$12/per person, includes non-alcoholic beverage. Show times Friday, 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.
- ❖ March 27 – **Romantic Passions** – PGSO concert showcasing David Anniversary Gala, Dinner, Dance & Auction at the Ramada Hotel. Tickets are \$40 ea or 2 for \$75 if purchased before March 5, go on line [www.pgmontessori.ca](http://www.pgmontessori.ca) for more info
- ❖ April 24<sup>th</sup> – **Spring Garage Sale** at ECRA 1692 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. Donations welcome, Frozen Cookie dough on Sale. Appropriate

- ❖ May 4-2010 – **Charlie Pride** at the CN Centre- tickets on sale November 27-www.tickemaster.ca or CN Centre Box Office
- ❖ June 3-5, 2010 – **Resources Expo 2010**- Please visit new website for more info [www.bcreourcesexpo.com](http://www.bcreourcesexpo.com) .

***If you are a non profit organization and would like to advertise an upcoming event or share a story please email [Shirley](#)***

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you would like to see something specific in the next edition of Ask Your MLA, please [email me](#). If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, email their name so we can add them to our list.



**My second e-newsletter, People, Places & Projects showcases great people and projects in our area. To subscribe to People, Places & Projects, [click here](#). To read past editions to go: [People, Places & Projects online](#).**

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